

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: NR 0721

For Release: May 9, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers holds public meeting on Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will hold a public meeting on the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project, Thursday, May 17 at the LaBelle Civic Center, 481 W. Hickpochee Ave. (SR 80), (behind City Hall), LaBelle, Fla. There will be an open house at 6:00 p.m., with displays and an opportunity to speak with key members of the project delivery team from the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a period for public comment.

The Corps has prepared a Draft Project Implementation Report (PIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project, formerly known as the C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir - Part 1, Phase 1.

The purpose of the project is to improve the timing and quantity of freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee River estuary. The Draft PIR/EIS is currently available for public review and comment through June 11, 2007.

The public meeting will include a presentation on the proposed Draft Project Operating Manual for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir. This Operating Manual describes the proposed operating criteria and instructions that were developed to meet the project purposes, goals and objectives as outlined in the Draft PIR. In addition, the South Florida Water Management District will provide a presentation on the state's Northern Everglades Initiative. Public comments will be heard following the presentations. Comments can also be submitted by mail or e-mail to:



BY MAIL: Susan Conner U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 701 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville FL 32207-8175

BY E-MAIL: crwbsrcomments@evergladesplan.org

Individuals attending the meeting who require assistance with special needs, please contact

Erica Robbins at 561-472-8893 or erica.a.robbins@saj02.usace.army.mil.